

EXHIBIT A

H6-199536

[0027] Incidentally, during the fiber drawing operation of the optical fiber 43, if the optical fiber 43 is out of standards for glass structure and transmission characteristics, it is necessary to cancel the fiber drawing operation, lift up and remove the optical fiber preform 41 from the fiber drawing furnace 11, introduce another optical fiber preform into the fiber drawing furnace 11 and restart the fiber drawing operation. In such a case, in reverse order to described previously, the optical fiber perform 41 inside the fiber drawing chamber A is lifted up, and as shown in Fig. 2, returned to the storage chamber B of the frames 21 and 22, and the shutter 17 is closed. Then, as shown in Fig. 4, the frames 21 and 22 are moved upwards together with the optical fiber preform 41 contained therein, and the bottom parts of the frames 21 and 22 are opened. In this state, nitrogen gas is supplied into the storage chamber B from each supply port 27 by the supply system 29, and the heated optical fiber preform 41 is force-cooled. Accordingly it is possible to perform cooling in approximately 20-30 minutes. Then, each air cylinder 23 is activated, the pair of frames 21 and 22 are separated and opened, and the optical fiber preform 41 that has been cooled to room temperature is lifted up and taken out.

Fig. 2

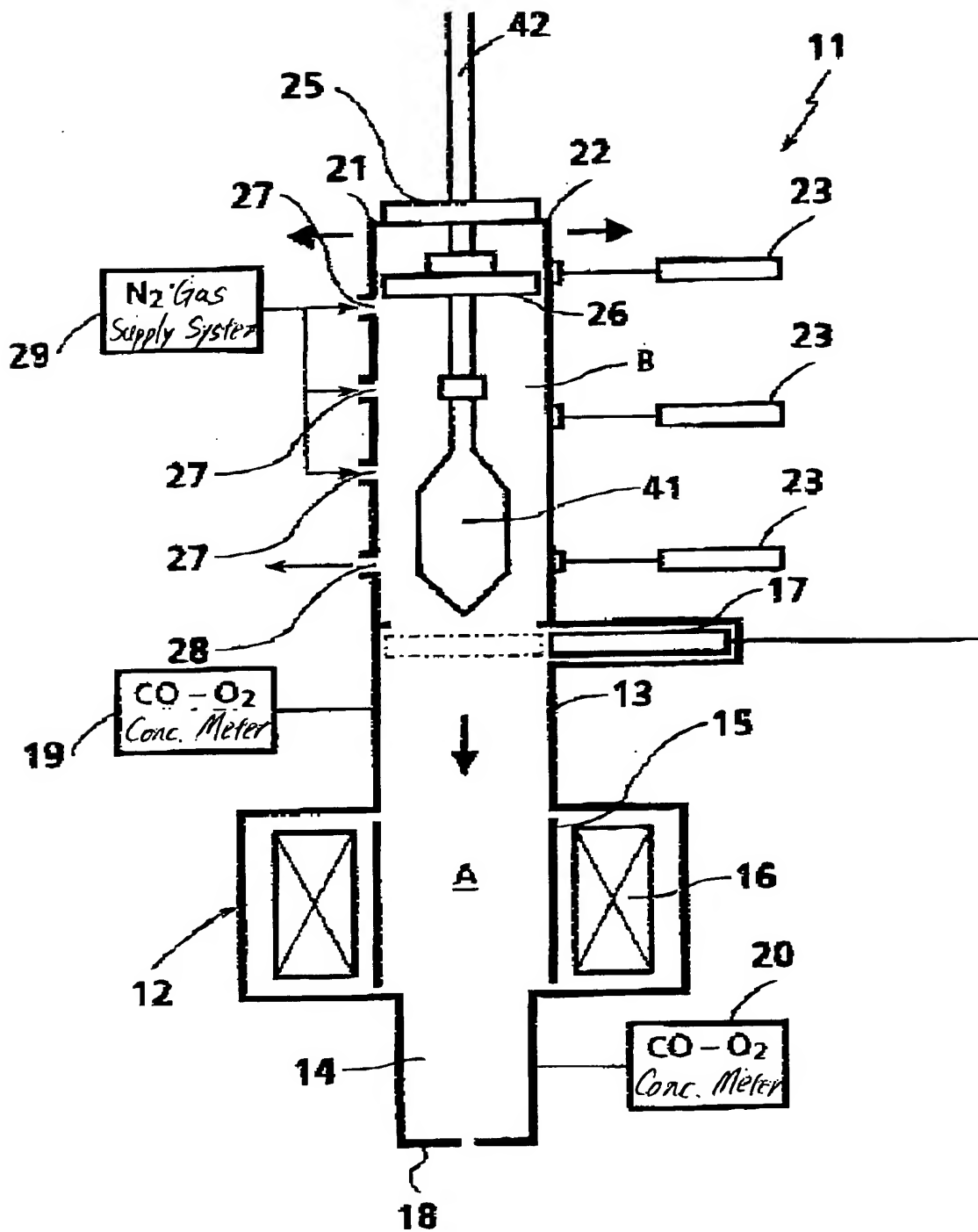


Fig. 4

